

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-8, 10, 11 and 13-20 are currently being prosecuted. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his rejections in view of the Amendments and Remarks as set forth herein below.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 15-18 and indicating claims 3, 7, 10 and 14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In light of this indication, claims 3, 7, 10 and 14 have been rewritten in independent form.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The Examiner has acknowledged the Information Disclosure Statement filed on January 19, 2006. An initialed copy of the PTO-1449 has been received from the Examiner. No further action is necessary at this time.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 9, 11 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Zarembo in view of Fukuda. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 includes a combination of elements and has been amended to include subject matter similar to that recited in dependent claim 2 and to clarify that an engaging recess formed on a distal end of the impeller engages sides of a head of the bolt for positioning the bolt relative to the rotational shaft. Independent claim 8 includes similar features in a varying scope.

These features are supported at least by Figure 4, for example, which illustrate an engaging recess 144 engaging sides of the head 143a.

The office action relies on Zaremba as teaching an engaging recess in which a head of a bolt is fitted (see Figure 1, for example). However, as shown in Figure 1 of Zaremba, the head of the bolt 7 is merely inserted into the recess but the sides of the bolt 7 are not engaged with the recessed portion. Therefore, the bolt 7 is not made to be non-rotatable with respect to the impeller 8. Fukuda also does not teach or suggest these features.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted independent claims 1 and 8 and each claim depending therefrom are also allowable.

CONCLUSION

In addition, new claims 19 and 20 include features removed from independent claims 1 and 8, and which were originally recited in dependent claims 5 and 12.

CONCLUSION

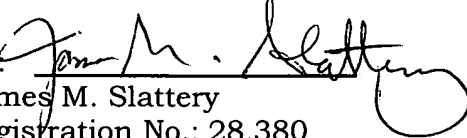
In view of the above remarks, it is believed that the claims clearly distinguish over the patents relied on by the Examiner, either alone or in combination.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: May 4, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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